



NEWS RELEASE

December 11, 2002

McAllen Sector Agents Seize 2,660 pounds of Marijuana

Five Seizures in Two Days Keep Agents Busy

McALLEN, Texas – Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza announces that Border Patrol Agents of the McAllen Sector seized 2,660 pounds of marijuana, in five separate seizures valued at \$2,128,000 over the last two days.

The first seizure occurred Dec. 9, at 12:15 a.m. at the Falfurrias, Texas, Checkpoint when a tractor-trailer approached the primary inspection area. As Agents questioned the driver as to his immigration status, a canine alerted positive to the odor of narcotics or human cargo in the area of the trailer. The tractor-trailer was referred to secondary inspection for a more intensified examination. In secondary inspection, the Agents discovered 414 pounds of marijuana in the trailer area valued at \$331,200.00. The driver, a United States Citizen 30 years old from Mission, Texas, was charged with Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute. The driver, the tractor-trailer and the narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Corpus Christi, Texas. The driver was arraigned yesterday.

The second seizure occurred Dec. 10, at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Rio Grande City Border Patrol Agents near Garceno, Texas. Agents working near the Port of Entry observed a suspicious vehicle leaving the area. Agents approached the vehicle and the driver bailed out and absconded into the brush. In the vehicle, a 1989 Chevy Van, the Agents discovered 39 bundles of marijuana weighing 1,321 pounds and valued at \$1,056,800. A search of the area for the driver proved negative. The vehicle and narcotics were turned over to DEA in McAllen, Texas.

The third seizure occurred Dec. 10, at 5:30 p.m. by McAllen Station Agents near Los Ebanos, Texas. Agents observed a sedan drive to the rivers edge and observed several subjects jump out of the brush and load several bundles in the trunk of the vehicle. As the vehicle left the area, Agents attempted to intercept the vehicle. The driver made a u-turn and drove through some fields in an attempt to evade apprehension. The driver bailed out of the vehicle, but was arrested a short time later. In the trunk of the vehicle the Agents discovered seven large sugar sacks of marijuana weighing 599 pounds, valued at \$479,200. The driver, a Mexican National, and the narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration in McAllen, Texas.

December 10, the Kingsville and McAllen Border Patrol stations were instrumental in two other seizures. They amounted to 326 pounds of marijuana valued at \$260, 800.

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